Summer Greetings, JACL DC Chapter!

We hope you are staying cool and enjoying summer and all the laughter that it brings.

This year has been especially joyful as two of our longtime DC Chapter Board Members have taken leadership roles in national organizations:

- David Inoue, is now Executive Director of JACL National and will be based in DC office. We are thrilled for JACL National to have selected such a hardworking, well-respected, and accomplished leader. Congratulations to David and the Inoue family, JACL is very lucky to have you!

- Leona Hiraoka, is now President and CEO of Keiro, a Los Angeles-based not-for-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of senior life in the Community. Keiro could not have picked a greater leader and experienced executive to lead the organization as it expands its reach from a focus on long-term health care facilities to broadly engaging and supporting thousands of Japanese American and Japanese older adults throughout Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura counties. Congratulations to Leona and her family!

We will miss David and Leona from our DC Chapter Board, but know they will always be part of our DC Chapter family. We thank them for their hard work and look forward to working with them in their new capacities.

In addition to the above, we are also excited to share that we had great success with our recent first-ever DC Chapter Survey and 48th Annual JACL National Convention!

Many thanks to Co-Vice President, Nikki Yamashiro, for leading our Chapter Survey from start to finish. An overview of Survey results can be found in this issue of DC News Notes, additional details will be shared via e-mail.

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PRESIDENTS’ MESSAGE

We would like to send a big thank you and otsukaresama to 2017 Convention Chair, John Tobe, and the planning committee for their inspiring efforts and long hours spent to ensure the 48th Annual Convention was memorable and welcoming to all. Hontou ni arigatou gozaimashita. You will find a letter from Chair John Tobe in this DC News Notes.

It truly takes a village to succeed at the caliber at which the 2017 Convention exceeded expectations. We would not have been able to achieve all that we did without our amazing volunteers from the DC Chapter, the Crafty Ladies, the Japan-America Society of Washington, DC, the JET Alumni Association, visiting JACL members from around the country, and the DC community. It was especially heartwarming to see multigenerational volunteers from a grandmother volunteering with her grandson, sisters and their families who traveled from out-of-state to help out, and children of DC Chapter members from elementary school students to recent college graduates, taking the time to give back to the community. Words cannot express our gratitude for your support!

With the Convention completed, we now look forward to sharing events for the remainder of the year. We are working to schedule Keiro Kai, Mochitsuki, and a few other events in between. Please stay tuned and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

Thank you all for your continued involvement with the DC Chapter and taking the time to complete the DC Chapter Survey! We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Georgette Furukawa-Martinez, 202.365.6845 | georgette.furukawamartinez@gmail.com
Ron Mori, 202.412.6331 | ron.mori@gmail.com

DAVID INOUE, NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JACL NATIONAL

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as the national executive director for the JACL. To represent the Washington, DC chapter which I have been a member of since moving here in 2001, is an even greater privilege. It is because of the rich history and dedication from the members of this chapter that I even considered the possibility of serving in this role.

Serving on the board for our chapter, in many ways has helped prepare me for this role. First, I know that I have the vast resources of this chapter to reach out to. Many of you have played a pivotal role in the chapter and the national organization. The most recent and tangible example of this is the successful national convention led by John Tobe, but also drawing from the efforts of many in the chapter.

Ron Mori and Georgette Furukawa-Martinez, our co-presidents bring deep ties to JACL’s partner community upon which we rely for support. And of course we are blessed with former JACL staff and national board members amongst our chapter membership as well as current national board members Michelle Amano and Jeff Moy.

JACL is not without its challenges. I hope that the successes of our local chapter can in some ways be transferred to the national level. Not all chapters have the advantages we do in Washington, DC such as a constant influx of new young and energetic youth as interns and fellows or a relatively high standard of living. But there are lessons to be learned from what we have done well as a chapter and I look forward to sharing those with others and bringing new ideas from around the country back home.

I have begun the process of learning about the many different JACL chapters. I certainly don’t want to exclude the DC chapter from that process. Although I am familiar with many of you, please do not hesitate to call or email me with a thought or suggestion. As I emphasized at the Sayonara Banquet in July, JACL is a membership organization and you are the membership. I look forward to working for and with all of you.
NATIONAL JACL CONVENTION 2017

Washington, D.C. - Nearly three hundred JACLers traveled to the Nation’s Capital on July 6-9, 2017 to attend the 48th National Convention. With the historic 75th anniversary of the signing of executive order 9066, the theme “Our Story: Resilience, Remembrance, Resolve” was echoed throughout the 2017 JACL Convention.

Kicking off National Convention with the opening reception at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History, “Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II,” members had the opportunity to view the original pages from the Executive Order 9066, along with personal items from incarceration sites, some of which were donated by JACL Members.

On Friday, The Embassy of Japan graciously held a reception where the Governor Ralph L. Carr Award for Courage was awarded to Wade Henderson, Former President and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and the Foreign Minister’s Award was presented to Former JACL Executive Director Bill Yoshino for his contributions and commitment to the education of younger generations and his leadership in JACL.

On Saturday at the Sayonara Banquet, the President’s Award was presented to Joan Z. Bernstein and Angus Macbeth (honored posthumously) for their work with the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Interment of Civilians (CWRIC) and their contributions seeking truth and justice.

A special recognition was given by the National Board to Congressman Mike Honda for his service in congress, especially for his leadership ensuring that the Japanese American experience and Asian Pacific American experience remains part of the policy discussion, and for his overall championing of civil and human rights.
2017 LEGACY FUND GRANTS AWARDS

This year 12 applicants out of 22 have been awarded Legacy Fund grants for a variety of innovative projects. JACLers from Alaska to Philadelphia submitted 22 proposals, the most ever in a given year.

On July 8, 2017, at the JACL Convention Sayonara Banquet, co-chairs of the Legacy Fund Grants Committee, Janice Nakano Faden and Jane Katsuyama presented certificates to the representatives who accepted awards on behalf of the winning JACL chapters and the National Youth Student Council (NY/SC). The maximum award was $7,500. The awards are as follows:

1. Cathy Yasuda accepted the award for the Snake River Chapter’s project, Social Justice 8 week film series. This project will be a required 8-week course at Eastern Oregon University, designed to sensitize the community and motivate its members to take action in support of people who are socially isolated or disadvantaged.

2. Marie Sugiyama accepted the award for the Sonoma County Chapter. Three veteran teachers will create stories in the format of Kamishibai, Japanese street theatre popular during the Depression. They will use storyboards to expose young children to the history of the incarceration and help them recognize the challenge of losing one's freedom and civil right of due process.

3. Victor Yamada accepted the award for the New Mexico Chapter’s project, Prisoner Rosters for Confinement Sites in the Land of Enchantment—Japanese Americans in New Mexico during World War II. This project completes the documentation and education program on the WWII Japanese American confinement sites that were located in New Mexico.

4. Ben Hartman accepted the award for the Twin Cities Chapter’s project, Collaborative Storytelling as Resistance in the Age of Islamophobia. This project will implement a series of workshops and community forums, in collaboration with the Council on Islamic-American Relations-Minnesota, to strengthen their commitment to stand up and speak out against widespread intolerance, religious bigotry, and discrimination in our current climate.

5. Rob Buscher accepted the award for the Philadelphia Chapter’s project, Japanese American Showcase at the Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival in 2017. The Showcase will highlight aspects of our community's unique experience in this country from Issei immigrant experiences, to wartime incarceration, reintegration and assimilation after camp, and finally somewhat conditional acceptance into mainstream society today.
2017 LEGACY FUND GRANTS AWARDS

6. Micki Kawakami accepted the award for the Boise Chapter’s project, GAMAN: The Story of Minidoka, which is the title of a 60-minute documentary that will explore the story of the concentration camp.

7. David Kawamoto accepted the award for San Diego’s project Our Lost Years, an educational documentary film that will commemorate the 75th Anniversary of Executive Order 9066. It will examine how lives were challenged, how livelihoods were lost, how families persevered and started over, and how the generations who have followed, continue to feel the effect of the Internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

8. Elizabeth Hiroyasu accepted the award for Ventura Chapter’s project Manzanar Diverted. This is a documentary film which links the various histories of Manzanar, bringing together the experiences of other diverse marginalized communities and those of Japanese Americans incarcerated in the wartime camps.

9. Jeanette Misaka accepted the award for Salt Lake’s project Redress Exhibit @ Topaz Museum. This project has two components 1) to install a Redress Exhibit at the Topaz Museum and 2) to involve and educate members and the broader community about internment and redress.

10. Eileen Lamphere accepted the award for Puyallup Valley’s 75th Remembrance of Puyallup Assembly Center. It will honor and remember those who were forced to live on the Puyallup Fairgrounds from April to September, 1942. There will be an exhibition at the Puyallup Fairgrounds and the installation of permanent markers of the names of all those who lived on the fairgrounds during this period.

11. Suzanne Regan accepted the award for Alaska Chapter JACL’s project JACL Looking to the Future Outreach Blitz. This project will memorialize the families living in Alaska at the time of WWII through interviews and historical documents. They also will memorialize the biography of the Alaska Chapter JACL and its history.

12. Kota Mizutani accepted the award for NY/SC’s Project 2018 NY/SC National Convention Mentorship Program. This program’s goal is to increase youth engagement in and understanding of JACL’s operations as a national entity. The long range goal of the Program is to improve the JACL’s sustainability by increasing youth interest and engagement at JACL’s National Convention.
Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Taro Kono Tours and Pays Respect at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism

August 16, 2017

In his first visit to the United States as Foreign Minister, Taro Kono paid his respects to those Japanese Americans who were killed in action during World War II by placing a wreath at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism.

Foreign Minister Kono, who has been a long-time supporter and friend to many Japanese Americans, said that he wanted to send a message to Japanese Americans that he values their friendship and support in deepening the relations between Japan and the US.

Foreign Minister Kono was greeted by JAACL DC Chapter Co-President Georgette Furukawa-Martinez, Co-Vice Presidents Linda Sato Adams and Nikki Yamashiro, Board Members Janice Faden and John Tobe, and JAACL National Executive Director David Inoue. In addition, he was greeted by representatives of the Japanese American Veterans Association, the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation and the US-Japan Council.

Kono expressed his support for educating and providing public awareness about the incarceration of Japanese Americans by the US government during WWII and to ensure that this injustice would not be repeated. Kono remarked that he fully supported this principle and would work with Japanese Americans to ensure that the civil rights and civil liberties of all people would be protected.

Foreign Minister Kono, who was appointed Foreign Minister by Prime Minister Abe on August 3, had traveled to Washington, DC to participate in the first meeting of the U.S.-Japan Security Consultative Committee (“2+2”) under the Trump Administration, and also held his first formal meeting with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Defense Secretary James Mattis.
JACL-DC CHAPTER ON SOCIAL MEDIA

3 EASY STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO HELP INCREASE OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE:

1. Like, like, like! If you follow us on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, simply liking or “hearting” our posts dramatically increases the reach of our posts (meaning more eyeballs on what we’re talking about, which hopefully will translate to more people following us)

2. Share it! On both Facebook and Twitter, it’s easy to share or retweet our posts – all it takes is one click. Again, sharing our content is a great way to increase our reach.

3. Mention us! If you have a post on twitter or Instagram that relates to us, include our handle!
For twitter: @jacl_DCchapter
For Instagram: @jacldcchapter

SOCIAL MEDIA STATS AS OF AUGUST 10:

38 posts
The convention had the highest impressions—the one giving a shout out to the volunteers performed best, followed by the two Japanese Ambassador residence reception posts

85 posts
- Reach since March: 20,303 (number of people who have seen the posts)
- Unique views: 18,172

30,365 impressions
Posts with the largest reach:
- Convention’s events had the largest reach
- US-Japan relations Panel- 2,712
- Japanese Ambassador’s residence event- 1,657

129 impressions

173 tweets
JACL-DC MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

When thinking about the JACL-DC chapter, what interests you?

- Civil rights
- Cultural activities
- Community events
- Policy

91% Member Interests:
- Cultural Activities
- Community Events
- Civil Rights

89% Members Very Much:
Rely on JACL-DC chapter communications & resources to learn about upcoming chapter events

What types of activities would you be interested in seeing the chapter organize on these topics?

- Coordinating individuals for a... 76%
- Contacting elected officials 68%
- Organizing speakers or panel... 68%
- Promoting events and campaigns... 68%
- Publishing opinion pieces or... 68%
- What types of activities would... 68%

Members would Like:
Publishing opinion pieces or social media content about current topics from a JA perspective

- Promoting events and campaigns from other organizations working on those issues &
- Organizing speakers or panel discussions on current events
ABOUT THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

Located in the nation’s Capitol, the Washington, D.C. Chapter partners with local, regional, national, and international organizations to build a network of support that maintains the proud history of the Japanese Americans and promotes the values and concerns of the APIA community.